



MARVEL @ The Art of Meloration

by MJ Kazmierski © www.givetheworld.org

The only difference between Speaking & Singing = the Tone & Tempo of the noises our mouths make

So many animals, birds and insects are born able to sing – we are too, and yet... as we get older, our self-confidence when it comes to using our bodies to make beautiful music fades and often fails altogether.

What if there was a third, middle path between speech and song? What if we could all learn to speak more sweetly and sing in time?

Melodeclamation or Melorecitation is what artists used to do on stages all over the world before modern singing styles took over. They recited monologues or epic poems accompanied by simple wood, string or percussion instruments. Their voices had to be strong and confident to carry across without electronics and computers to enhance their sound – they were melodious too, even though we would not call it singing.

Listen to the radio today – what impresses you the most? Vocal techniques and musical arrangements they're backed by, or the words and messages songs share?

In music today showy singing styles are the norm – actors and singers who focus on the words, not the noises their mouths make, are very few and far in between (do you think Bob Dylan or Leonard Cohen sing well? Yet we love so many of their songs still).

The only difference between speaking and singing is the tone and tempo of the noises our mouths make – if you took this sentence, extended the way you say the vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) and made your voice go up and down at different speeds – you would be singing it!

But yes – singing can be tricky, because we have to focus on words, tempo, tone and so on – which can be a lot to handle. So practice **meloration** instead = melodious oration of words from songs, stories or everyday speech – just by extending the vowel sounds a little without changing the speed or pitch much.

Take your favorite song, focus on the vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) and extend them as you recite the lyrics. You will notice some are at a different pitch or tone – but keep your voice steady and slow – focus on your breathing, not on the melody.

Now you are melorating!

You can use this technique when speaking with family, friends or at work and in public presentations. Try it – just extend some of the vowel sounds a little for emphasis – do it well and your speech will become more effective and efficient! You won't be singing, yet you'll be speaking much more melodiously and memorably. This is what all actors and professional speakers learn to do when they pay a lot of money for lessons with professional voice coaches. Melorating can help you learn to sing in time too...

COMPREHENSION CHECK > Can you explain the difference between speech and song? How can Meloration help you in all sorts of situations?